

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): An isolated polynucleotide, comprising SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A recombinant expression vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim ~~12~~ or 13.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A host cell transformed with the recombinant expression vector of claim 15.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a recombinant polypeptide, comprising transforming a suitable host cell by the recombinant expression vector of claim 16;
culturing the host cell in suitable culture medium and under appropriate culture conditions; and
separating and purifying the recombinant polypeptide from the culture medium, the cells, or the medium and the cells.

Claims 18-21 (Cancelled).